

NEW YORK  
JOURNAL AMERICAN

MAR 29 1953

AGENCY

X

COPYRIGHT

COUNTESS EDDA CIANO IS QUITE BITTER at the United States because, she alleges, and not unreasonably, that she was cheated out of the money coming to her from the publication of the Ciano diaries.

The diaries, compiled by Galeazzo Ciano (Edda's husband and Benito Mussolini's son-in-law), through the years when he was Italy's Foreign Minister, were published in book form by Doubleday, but the money went into the hands of the Allen Property Custodian. As of this day Edda has not seen a penny of it.

Edda also remembers the dramatic days towards the end of the war when she handed the diaries to Allen Dulles, presently Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and brother-in-law of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Allen Dulles wanted to get his hands on the Ciano diaries because the U. S. Government thought it might contain valuable data for them for the war criminal trials staged later at Nuremberg and presided over by Supreme Court Justice Jackson.

### Had the Diaries Photographed

Edda and Dulles had a secret meeting at a little Swiss town near the frontier, and Countess Ciano permitted the American to take photographs of the diaries. Dulles told her she could keep the originals and have them published in commercial form at a later date.

Countess Ciano poured out all her bitterness on Dulles' ears. She hated her father with whom she had pleaded in vain to spare her husband's life, but Mussolini would not forget the fact that his son-in-law had voted against him in the last Grand Council. So he ordered Ciano shot, and Ciano, it must be said, died bravely.

But Edda's greatest hate was against Joachim Von Ribbentrop, the suave ex-champagne salesman who became Hitler's Foreign Minister. Ribbentrop had promised the Cianos safe conduct so they could flee to freedom. But he double-crossed them and had Galeazzo arrested. He let Edda free but her husband was handed over to Mussolini.

Not much later, as Fascist and German resistance in northern Italy disintegrated, Mussolini sent intermediaries to Allen Dulles in Switzerland to negotiate a surrender.

But Dulles could not accept.

He smuggled Benito into Switzerland, a neutral country, the U. S. could not have any claim on him. And Dulles did not have sufficient force at his disposal to protect Mussolini against the Partisans. And as it happened, the Partisans shot Il Duce.